

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-24 are active in the present application. Claims 12 and 13 are currently withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 18-24 are new claims. Support for new Claims 18-20 is found in the last paragraph on page 6. Support for new Claims 21-23 is found in the first paragraph on page 4 and on page 6, lines 27-32. Support for new Claim 24 is found in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

The Office asserts that Claim 1 of the present application is obvious over Groitzsch (U.S. 5,158,636) in view of Suzuki (JP 54-114577). Applicants traverse the rejection.

Independent Claim 1 is amended herein for clarity. During a discussion with the Examiner on April 12, 2007, the Examiner indicated that the objections/rejections of record may be withdrawn after entry of the amended claims.

The Office acknowledges that Groitzsch is directed to the production of a microporous film (see the first full paragraph on page 5 of the February 23 Office Action). As best understood by Applicants, the rejection appears to be based on the Office's opinion that the claimed invention (e.g., an invention which produces a self-cleaning surface having nanostructured particles on a coated textile sheet) is obvious because (i) Groitzsch discloses forming a microporous film on a textile substrate, and (ii) Suzuki discloses a process whereby a carbonate-containing transfer sheet is contacted to a decorative laminate.

Applicants submit that, on its face, the rejection makes no sense. The coated textile sheet made in the claimed process has hydrophobic particles with a nanostructured surface present on its surface. The transfer sheet of the present claims serves to transfer the nanostructured particles onto the coated textile sheet. This is different from the process of Suzuki. Applicants submit that it is readily evident that the release agent (e.g., calcium carbonate) of Suzuki is added to a base material that includes a cellulose derivative and a thermosetting resin.

How can the calcium carbonate of Suzuki transfer to any other sheet when it is mixed with a thermosetting resin?

The Office asserts that Suzuki discloses a release paper (see the paragraph on page 5, lines 7-12 of the February 23 Office Action). How can the Suzuki release paper function to transfer particles to the microporous film?

It appears that the Office misunderstands the claimed invention. The coated textile sheet having a self-cleaning surface which is produced by the process of Claim 1 has structured nanoparticles on a surface thereof (see page 4, lines 11-16). Groitzsch does not disclose a process in which the prior art microporous film is advantageously coated with or has present on its surface any further substance.

Groitzsch contacts the prior art microporous film with a textile substrate as a way of providing a support to the microporous film. The active surface of the Groitzsch microporous film does not otherwise contain or have embedded on its surface any materials such as the nanostructured materials of the present claims. In fact, it would make no sense to include such particles on the surface of the prior art microporous film which is used for example to cover burn wounds. The presence of a surface that is not smooth or has particulates may make it difficult for a wound to heal without binding the prior art microporous film to the wound.

Perhaps the Office is of the belief that the prior art microporous film is the same as the coating of the present claims. If this is the Office's understanding of Groitzsch, Applicants submit that the Office has not addressed a basic question raised by the rejections; namely, why would it be obvious to include nanostructured particles on the surface of the prior art microporous film?

At best the prior art of record discloses that the calcium carbonate should be added to a release sheet, not to a textile substrate or a coating applied to a textile substrate.

Applicants draw the Office's attention to new dependent Claim 24 which requires that the nanostructured particles have an average diameter of 30 to 100 μm . Applicants submit that the average particle diameter of new dependent Claim 24 is not obvious in view of the calcium carbonate of Suzuki which is described to have an average particle diameter of 0.3-

20 μ m. New dependent Claim 24 is therefore further patentable over the prior art relied on by the Office.

Applicants further draw the Office's attention to new dependent Claim 20 which requires that the nanostructured particle have an irregular fine structure in a range of from 10-100 nm. Neither Groitzsch nor Suzuki disclose such a particle. New dependent Claim 20 is therefore further patentable over the prior art relied on by the Office.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance to acknowledge the patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,


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